there has been no information of poultry farmers committing suicide since January 2006. However, as per report of the Andhra Pradesh Poultry Federation, four poultry farmers have committed suicide during March-May 2006.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Measures for prevention of suicides by farmers

†2887. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to focus permanent measures to prevent suicides by farmers, he had convened a meeting in the recent past with the Chief Ministers of those States where farmers under the pressure of debt had committed suicides during the last years;

(b) if so, the names of those States whose Chief Ministers attended the said meeting;

(c) whether some Chief Ministers of those States where farmers had committed suicides did not attend the meeting;

(d) if so, the names of those States;

(e) the outcome of the meeting; and

(f) whether Government propose to provide any special package for these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Karnataka and Kerala.

(e) and (f) Based on the suggestions/feedback received in this meeting,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

a relief package is under preparation for the districts worst affected by the incidence of suicide by farmers in the States.

Assistance to Maharashtra for compensating fall in onion prices

2888. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to provide any sort of assistance to help farmers of Maharashtra who are facing financial loss due to fall in onion prices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India implements Market Intervention Scheme at specific request of State Government in event of fall in prices due to glut in market. The losses, if any, are shared on 50:50 basis between the Central and State Government.

Waiving of farm loans due to **crop damage**

†2889. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the crops damaged due to the recent drought and untimely rain fall in various parts of the country alongwith the loss suffered by the medium and marginal farmers;

(b) the details of bank debts and interest thereon of those farmers;

(c) whether Government propose to waive of their farm loans in view of their pitiable conditions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the manner in which Government would provide relief to these farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be
laid on the Tables of the Sabha.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.